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Case Docket No.: Beiersdorf 481-KGB

THE ASST. COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

November 25, 1997

S I R:

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of

INVENTOR(s): Jörn LEIBER, Bernd LÜHMANN, Thomas RAADTS, Ralf SCHLIEPHACKE,  
Peter KUBASCH, Jan CHAL, Hansjürgen LINDE, Uwe NEUMANN,  
Hans HAZES

FOR: USE OF AN ADHESIVE TAPE SECTION

Enclosed are:

- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ sheet of drawings.
- ☐ An assignment of the invention to: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ A certified copy of a \_\_\_\_ application (priority document).
- ☐ A declaration and power of attorney.
- ☒ A preliminary amendment
- ☒ Priority is hereby claimed on the basis of the following:

Country	Serial No.	Date
<u>Germany</u>	<u>196 49 636.5-43</u>	<u>December 2, 1996</u>

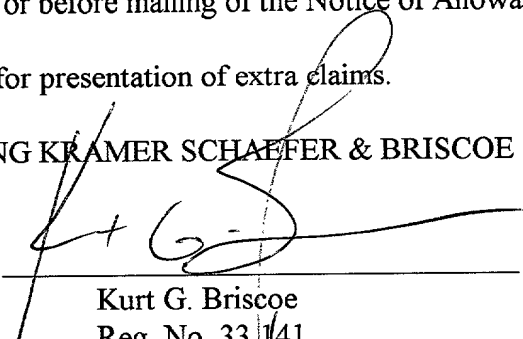
- ☐ A verified statement to establish small entity status under 37 CFR 1.9 and 37 CFR 1.27.
- ☒ The filing fee has been calculated as shown below:

	No. Extra	Small Entity		Other Than A Small Entity
BASIC FEE XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX		XXXX\$385	OR	XXXX\$790.
TOTAL CLAIMS 10-20=0		x 11 \$	OR	x22 \$
INDEP. CLAIMS 1-3=0		x41 \$	OR	x82 \$
<input type="checkbox"/> MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENTED		+135 \$	OR	+270 \$
		\$	OR	\$790

- ☒ Please charge my Deposit Account No. 19-3869 in the amount of \$ 790. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☐ A check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to cover the filing fee is enclosed.
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- ☒ Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17.
- ☐ The issue fee set in 37 CFR 1.18 at or before mailing of the Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.311(b).
- ☒ Any filing fees under 37 CFR 1.16 for presentation of extra claims.

SPRUNG KRAMER SCHAEFER & BRISCOE

By:

  
Kurt G. Briscoe  
Reg. No. 33,141

660 White Plains Road  
Tarrytown, N.Y. 10591-5144  
(914) 332-1700

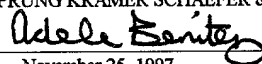
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20231 on November 25, 1997

SPRUNG KRAMER SCHAEFER & BRISCOE

By

  
Date November 25, 1997

Beiersdorf 481-KGB:lad  
1120.Dr.Di-hf



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants : Jörn LEIBER, et al.  
Serial No. : TBA  
Filed : Herewith  
For : USE OF AN ADHESIVE TAPE SECTION  
Group Art Unit :  
Examiner :

#5/a  
EB  
10-16-98

November 25, 1997

Hon. Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to examination, kindly amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS**

~~Claim 10, line 2, cancel "1-9" and substitute --1--.~~

**REMARKS**

The foregoing amendment serves to eliminate multiple dependencies.

Respectfully submitted,

SPRUNG KRAMER SCHAEFER & BRISCOE

By: 

Kurt G. Briscoe  
Reg. No. 33,141

660 White Plains Road  
Tarrytown, NY 10591-5144  
(914) 332-1700

BEIERSDORF AG  
Hamburg

Description

Use of an adhesive tape section

5           The invention relates to the use of an adhesive tape section for bonds which can be released again without residue or destruction by pulling/stretching in the bond plane.

10           Highly extensible self-adhesive tapes (adhesive films) which undergo elastic or plastic deformation on stretching and have pressure-sensitive adhesion on one or both sides, and which are redetachable without residue or destruction by pulling essentially in the direction of their bond plane, are known. Bonds produced therewith  
15           offer a powerful hold and yet can be detached again without trace and with little or no damage to the substrate or to the adherents. Examples of adhesive tapes of the above-mentioned type are described in US 4,024,312, DE 33 31 016, DE 42 22 849, WO 92/11332, WP 92/11333, US 5,516,581 and WO 95/06691. A common  
20           ready-made form of such products is that of self-adhesive tape sections, for example in the form of rectangular strips, which possess a non-tacky grip-tab region at one end (see DE 42 22 849, WO 92/1133 or US 5,516,581). The  
25           grip tab serves as a handle for subsequent redetachment of the adhesive tape.

          Practical problems with the above-mentioned products occur when, in the case of double-sided self-adhesive tapes with pressure-sensitive adhesion, the  
30           self-adhesive tape tears during the detachment process. This problem is addressed in particular by DE 42 22 849, DE 44 28 587 and DE 44 31 914. Adhesive tapes described in DE 42 22 849 use UV-impermeable grip-tab covers which are intended to prevent or reduce the tear propensity in  
35           the grip-tab region following UV exposure. Adhesive tapes described in DE 44 28 578 have a specially shaped end which counters partial tearing of the adhesive tape at

the end of the detachment process. DE 44 31 914 describes adhesive tapes featuring in the grip-tab region, inter alia, special film or paper covers which are of low adhesion to the self-adhesive composition that is used, thereby reducing the tear propensity in the region of the non-tacky grip tab. Nevertheless, a general solution to the problem of tears is lacking.

A further problem encountered in connection with adhesive tapes which can be redetached by stretching essentially in the bond plane is that the shear force acting on the bond substrate in the course of the detachment process may cause partial damage or destruction of these substrates. DE 44 28 578 in particular addresses this difficulty and provides a solution by specific geometric shaping of the adhesive films at their end. From the standpoint of waste-free production, however, this is often difficult to implement. There is as yet no general solution to the problem described.

A preferred field of use of self-adhesive tapes which are redetachable without residue or destruction by stretching essentially in the bond plane is the bonding of flexible materials such as posters, for example. In this context it is frequently the intention, for example for aesthetic reasons, to produce a hidden bond; in other words, the adhesive tape is to remain completely behind the article to be bonded in such a way that, in the bonded state, even the grip tab is not visible. Redetachment requires simple and easy location of the grip tab. In practice, however, it is found that the customer has frequently forgotten how the adhesive tapes were bonded at the time of fixing, and, as a result, where the grip tab is located. It may be the case, through oversight or lack of knowledge, that the self-adhesive tape has also been bonded in such a way that the grip-tab region lies towards the inside of the poster and therefore cannot be reached at all, and so the bond cannot be released again without damaging or destroying the bonded article or the substrate.

The object of the present invention was to overcome the above-mentioned disadvantages and, in particular, to obtain self-adhesive tapes which:

- which are redetachable without residue or destruction by stretching essentially in the bond plane,
- which even in the case of tears can be redetached without residue or destruction during the detachment process, and
- for which, even in the case of the hidden bonding of flexible materials, the grip tab can be found quickly and easily, and in particular
- with which faulty bonding of the cut-to-size adhesive-tape sections is impossible.

This object is achieved by the use of adhesive tape sections as characterized in more detail in the claims, especially:

- cut-to-size adhesive tape sections which are redetachable without residue or destruction by stretching essentially in the bond plane and which
- possess grip tabs or grip-tab regions which
- adjoin a central region of pressure-sensitive adhesion, with
- grip tabs or grip tab regions projecting in two or more directions from the central region of pressure-sensitive adhesion.

Exemplary applications:

Self-adhesive tapes which can be redetached without residue or destruction for:

- the fixing of posters, pictures, calendars, postcards, signs, self-adhesive hooks, including those which are ready-made;
- preferably for the bonding of flexible materials so that the grip-tab regions are easy to find, even in the case of hidden bonding, and faulty bonds with, for example, an inaccessible grip-tab region are precluded.

In accordance with the invention it is possible

to utilize highly stretchable adhesive tapes which deform elastically or else plastically on extension and which are suitable for bonds which can be redetached without residue or destruction by pulling essentially in the direction of the bond plane, in accordance with, inter alia, US 4,024,312, DE 33 31 016, WO 92/11332, US 5,516,581 and WO 95/06691. Adhesive tapes can feature pressure-sensitive adhesion on one or both sides or else can be provided on one or both sides with a heat-activatable adhesive composition. They may have a single-layer or multilayer construction. In the case of self-adhesive tapes with double-sided pressure-sensitive adhesion it is possible to utilize elastically or plastically deforming materials as the intermediate support. Such materials include not only plastic films but also, in particular, adhesive compositions as intermediate layers and foam-containing intermediate supports.

In the text below the intention is to illustrate the invention with reference to working examples and figures but without thereby wishing unnecessarily to restrict the invention. In the drawings, Fig. 1 shows a plan view of an adhesive tape section according to the invention, while Fig. 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d and Fig. 3 each show plan views of further embodiments.

These Figures 1, 2a - d and 3 each show adhesive tape sections 1 with adhesive regions 2 and grip tabs or grip-tab regions 3.

Adhesive tapes according to the invention are employed in ready-made form, for instance in the form of punched pieces or cut-to-size sections. Ready-made products have a central region of pressure-sensitive adhesion. Adjacent to this area there are a plurality of - but at least two - grip-tab regions. In one specific embodiment the central region of pressure-sensitive adhesion is surrounded by a continuous peripheral grip-tab region (Figure 1).

Preferred embodiments are those having two opposing grip-tab regions (Figure 2a), those having three



grip-tab regions at an angle of about 120° and those having four such regions at an angle of about 90° to one another (Figure 2b, c, d).

5 A particularly preferred embodiment is that of an equilateral triangle. The apices of the triangle form three grip-tab regions, with the region of pressure-sensitive adhesion in the centre (Figure 3). The grip-tab regions are designed such that the boundaries to the inner region of pressure-sensitive adhesion extend  
10 convexly towards the apices of the triangle. This permits a high bond area relative to the overall surface area of the adhesive-tape section. At the same time, the regions of pressure-sensitive adhesion which lie opposite the apices of the triangle converge to a point. As a result  
15 it is possible to utilize the advantages of DE 44 28 578.

All figures should be understood as examples selected from a large number of additional possibilities.

Ready-made forms comprise not only adhesive-tape pieces of defined dimensions, for example in the form of  
20 punched pieces or cut-to-size sections as described above, but also adhesive-tape rolls where it is the user who carries out the ultimate cutting of the self-adhesive tape that is to be used, for example by cutting it to size. An example of a corresponding adhesive-tape roll is  
25 that of a double-sided pressure-sensitive adhesive tape which is covered, for example, with release paper and whose pressure-sensitive adhesive composition surface in both marginal regions is neutralized on both sides by, for example, application of a thin polyester film. Simple  
30 cutting to size of such a roll gives sections corresponding to Figure 2a.

Adhesive tapes according to the invention can be obtained, starting from single or double-sided pressure-sensitive self-adhesive tapes which can be redetached  
35 without residue or destruction by stretching essentially in the direction of the bond plane, by partial neutralization of the pressure-sensitive adhesive surface of these adhesive tapes.

The surface of the adhesive composition can be

neutralized by covering it with, for example, thin films of, for example, plastic or by covering with thin sheets of paper. Alternatively, coating or printing of the regions of pressure-sensitive adhesive composition which are to be neutralized can be carried out by means of a non-tacky coating material or of a non-tacky powder material. Neutralization is preferably achieved in accordance with DE 44 31 914.

An alternative possibility is to obtain self-adhesive tapes according to the invention by a selective coating of suitable support materials which do not feature pressure-sensitive adhesion. In this case, the grip-tab regions are provided by the support utilized, which has been coated or printed partially with adhesive composition in such a way that the grip-tab regions are not covered with adhesive.

Preferably, the neutralization of the surface of the adhesive composition, and the coating of a suitable support with pressure-sensitive adhesive composition, takes place so as to be approximately coincident on both sides in the case of double-sided pressure-sensitive adhesive films.

### Examples

#### Example 1

12  $\mu\text{m}$  thick polyethylene terephthalate film sections (Hostaphan RN 12) siliconized on one side and measuring 15 mm x 15 mm are put with the siliconized side facing the adhesive onto both sides, at both longitudinal ends, of a single-layer adhesive film measuring 70 mm x 15 mm x 1 mm (length x width x thickness) based on a styrene block copolymer (formulation 1). To protect the central regions, featuring pressure-sensitive adhesion, of the resulting adhesive films, they are covered on both sides with siliconized release paper. Four such adhesive film sections are used to fix a poster on to a wall covered with painted ingrain wallpaper (wallpaper: Erfurt Körnung 52; colour: Herbol Zenit LG; wallpaper bonded

onto chipboard). For this purpose the release papers are removed from one side of the adhesive films, and then the adhesive films freed from the release paper on one side are fixed with their pressure-sensitive adhesive side into the four corner regions of the reverse side of the poster in such a way that hidden bonding of the poster can be performed. In a second step, the rear-side release papers of the adhesive films are peeled off and the poster is bonded. To redetach the posters, careful folding forwards of the poster corners in all cases reveals a grip tab whereby simple detachment is possible. Faulty bonding as is possible in the case of adhesive films provided on only one side with a grip tab, if the grip tabs are bonded pointing towards the centre of the poster, is not possible.

#### Formulation 1

80 parts of Europrene Sol T 193B (EniChem)  
20 parts of Vector 4261 (Exxon Chemicals)  
100 parts of Foralyn 110 (Hercules)  
1 part of Irganox 1010 (Ciba)

#### Example 1a

In accordance with Example 1, a foam-containing support based on an ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer (Alveolit TEE 0500.8; Alveo AG; density = 200 kg/m<sup>3</sup>; thickness = 800 µm) is laminated together on both sides with a 250 µm thick adhesive film of formulation 1. For this purpose the chosen foam is placed on the pressure-sensitive adhesive, which is present on siliconized release paper, and then a rubber-coated steel roller with a width of 25 cm is rolled over the assembly five times with a pressure of 50 N. The resulting semi-finished product is coated with pressure-sensitive adhesive in an identical manner on the second side. Then, in a manner similar to that of Example 1, adhesive film sections are produced which carry on both sides, at the end, grip tabs comprising 15 mm x 15 mm polyester films which have been siliconized on one side. Bonds are formed after the

resulting samples have been conditioned for 24 hours in a controlled-climate chamber (50% relative humidity,  $T = RT = 23^{\circ}\text{C}$ ). Four of the adhesive film strips are used as in Example 1 to bond a poster to painted ingrain wall-  
5 paper. When the adhesive film strips are slowly detached it is observed that at the end of the detachment process, when the maximum shear stress is exerted on the substrate, a small amount of paint is torn away from the surface of the painted ingrain wallpaper. If, on the  
10 other hand, both grip tabs are gripped simultaneously and are pulled apart diametrically in the direction of the grip tabs and essentially in the bond plane, then a substantially smaller part of the detachment force acts on the painted ingrain wallpaper. Correspondingly,  
15 detachment totally without destruction is demonstrated.

#### Example 2

Circular single-layer adhesive-film punched sections 1 mm thick (adhesive composition corresponding to formulation 1) and with a diameter of 60 mm are made  
20 non-tacky on both sides in a marginal region of 20 mm by powdering with titanium dioxide (Kronos 2210) in accordance with Figure 1. In accordance with Example 1, a poster is bonded. The substrate employed is a smooth Resopal-coated chipboard panel. Owing to the circular  
25 grip-tab region if it is possible to find the grip-tab for the detachment process immediately. Faulty bonding as is possible in the case of adhesive films provided on only one side with a grip tab, if the grip tabs are bonded pointing towards the centre of the poster, is not  
30 possible.

#### Example 3

Adhesive film sections in the shape of equilateral triangles with an edge length of 60 mm and a thickness of 1 mm (adhesive composition corresponding to  
35 formulation 1) are covered so as to be coincident on both sides, in accordance with Example 1, with 12  $\mu\text{m}$  thick polyester film which has been siliconized on one side.

The central regions, featuring pressure-sensitive  
adhesion, of the resulting adhesive films are protected  
by being covered on both sides with siliconized release  
paper. Owing to the convergence to a point of the regions  
5 of pressure-sensitive adhesion which are opposite to the  
grip tabs, the adhesive film sections obtained in this  
way are particularly suitable for non-destructive  
redetachment even from highly sensitive substrates.

Even if a grip tab tears (as a result, for  
10 example, of very rapid stretching of the adhesive films,  
starting from a grip tab which is gripped only at its  
very end), non-destructive detachment is possible by way  
of one of the two remaining grip tabs.

### Patent claims

1.        Use of an adhesive tape section with an adhesive region and grip tab for a bond which can be released again without residue or destruction, the adhesive tape section being releasable by pulling/stretching in the bond plane, characterized in that on at least two sides of the adhesive region a grip tab is provided and allows the bond to be released again by pulling/stretching in the bond plane.
2.        Use according to Claim 1, characterized in that the adhesive tape section is treated so as to be self-adhesive on both sides.
3.        Use according to Claim 1, characterized in that the adhesive tape section consists of a highly stretchable material which can be deformed elastically or plastically on extension, with or without an intermediate support and, in particular, an intermediate support of film or foam.
4.        Use according to Claim 1, characterized in that the grip tabs are arranged around the adhesive region.
5.        Use according to Claim 1, characterized in that the grip tabs are arranged symmetrically about an imaginary centre point of the adhesive tape section.
6.        Use according to Claim 1, characterized in that the grip tabs cover regions which surround, at least in part, the adhesive region.
7.        Use according to Claim 1, characterized in that the adhesive tape section is polygonal in design, and the grip tabs are arranged in the angles.
8.        Use according to Claim 1, characterized in that the adhesive tape section is circular in design, and the grip tabs in an outer region embrace the entire adhesive region.
9.        Use according to Claim 1, characterized in that the adhesive tape section is triangular or quadrangular in design, and the grip tabs are arranged in the angles and embrace the entire adhesive region.



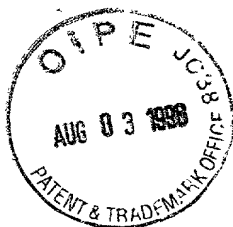
Abstract

08/976820

Use of an adhesive tape section with an adhesive region and grip tab for a bond which can be released again without residue or destruction, the adhesive tape section being releasable by pulling/stretching in the bond plane, characterized in that on at least two sides of the adhesive region a grip tab is provided and allows the bond to be released again by pulling/stretching in the bond plane.

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ATTORNEY DOCKET No.: Beiersdorf 481-KGB

Page 1 of 3

**COMBINATION DECLARATION & POWER OF ATTORNEY**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

the specification of which

☐

is attached hereto.

☒

was filed on November 25, 1997 as  
application Serial No. 08/976,820.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations §1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Priority Claimed

196 49 636.5-43  
(Number)

Germany  
(Country)

2 December 1996  
(Day/Month/Yr. Filed)

[X] yes [ ]no

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Number)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Country)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Day/Month/Yr. Filed)

[ ] yes [ ]no

I hereby claim the benefit of 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of any United States Provisional Application(s) listed below.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(application number)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(filing date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(application number)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(filing date)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Application Serial No.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Filing Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Status)  
(patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punished by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Arnold Sprung, Reg. No. 17,232; Nathaniel D. Kramer, Reg. No. 25,350; Ira J. Schaefer, Reg. No. 26,802 and Esther Steinhauer, Reg. No. 40,255 all of 120 White Plains Road, Tarrytown, New York 10591; Kurt G. Briscoe, Reg. No. 33,141; William C. Gerstenzang, Reg. No. 27,552; Paul J. Juettner, Reg. No. 20,974; Carmella O'Gorman, Reg. No. 33,749 of 660 White Plains Road, Tarrytown, New York 10591-5144, my attorneys with full power of substitution and revocation.

**SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:**  
**SPRUNG KRAMER SCHAEFER & BRISCOE**  
**660 WHITE PLAINS ROAD**  
**TARRYTOWN, N.Y. 10591-5144**

**DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO:**  
**Kurt G. Briscoe**  
**(914) 332-1700**

FULL NAME OF SOLE OR FIRST INVENTOR: Jörn LEIBER

INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE: Jörn Leiber  
RESIDENCE: Mittelstraße 4, 25524 Heiligenstedtenerkamp, Germany

DATE: 24.02.98  
CITIZENSHIP: German

POST OFFICE ADDRESS: Mittelstraße 4, 25524 Heiligenstedtenerkamp, Germany

FULL NAME OF SECOND INVENTOR: Bernd LÜHMANN

INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE: Bernd Lümann  
RESIDENCE: Heidbergstraße 55, D-22846 Norderstedt, Germany

DATE: 23.02.98  
CITIZENSHIP: German

POST OFFICE ADDRESS: Heidbergstraße 55, D-22846 Norderstedt, Germany

FULL NAME OF THIRD INVENTOR: Thomas RAADTS

INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE: Thomas Raadts  
RESIDENCE: Kohfurt 25a, 22850 Norderstedt, Germany

DATE: 26.02.98  
CITIZENSHIP: German

POST OFFICE ADDRESS: Kohfurt 25a, 22850 Norderstedt, Germany

FULL NAME OF FOURTH INVENTOR: Ralf SCHLIEPHACKE

INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE: Ralf Schliephacke  
RESIDENCE: Luchsbarge 35, 25524 Itzehoe, Germany

DATE: 25.02.98  
CITIZENSHIP: German

POST OFFICE ADDRESS: Luchsbarge 35, 25524 Itzehoe, Germany

FULL NAME OF FIFTH INVENTOR: Peter KUBASCH

INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE: Peter Kubasch  
RESIDENCE: Kurauer Str. 10, 23554 Lübeck, Germany

DATE: 21.2.1998  
CITIZENSHIP: German

POST OFFICE ADDRESS: Kurauer Str. 10, 23554 Lübeck, Germany

FULL NAME OF SIXTH INVENTOR: Jan CHAL

INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE: *Jan Chal*  
RESIDENCE: Kadnarova 53, 83105 Bratislava, Czech Republic

DATE: 16.2.1998  
CITIZENSHIP: CZECH

POST OFFICE ADDRESS: Kadnarova 53, 83105 Bratislava, Czech Republic

FULL NAME OF SEVENTH INVENTOR: Hansjürgen LINDE

INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE: *Hansjürgen Linde*  
RESIDENCE: Hutholzweg 18, 96450 Coburg, Germany

DATE: 29.01.1998  
CITIZENSHIP: GERMAN

POST OFFICE ADDRESS: Hutholzweg 18, 96450 Coburg, Germany

FULL NAME OF EIGHTH INVENTOR: Uwe NEUMANN

INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE: *Uwe Neumann*  
RESIDENCE: Postfach 2534, 96414 Coburg, Germany

DATE: 29.1.98  
CITIZENSHIP: GERMAN

POST OFFICE ADDRESS: Postfach 2534, 96414 Coburg, Germany

FULL NAME OF NINETH INVENTOR: Hans HAZES

INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE: *Hans Hazes*  
RESIDENCE: Ringdijk 2E Bedijking 21, NL-3641 PH Mijdrecht, The Netherlands  
CITIZENSHIP: DUTCH

DATE: 7.2.98

POST OFFICE ADDRESS: Ringdijk 2E Bedijking 21, NL-3641 PH Mijdrecht, The Netherlands